



NAME: CAPT DANIEL A. DIGGINS, JR.

JOB TITLE: ASSISTANT CHIEF PHARMACIST,
INPATIENT PHARMACY SERVICES

AGENCY: INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES,
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS

CAPT Diggins completed his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in May 1985 at the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy Baltimore, Maryland. After eight years of pharmacy practice with the Indian Health Service at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, he returned to academics and obtained a Doctor of Pharmacy in May 1995 from the College of Pharmacy in Charleston, South Carolina. In June 1996, he completed a specialty residency in Adult Internal Medicine and then returned to the Indian Health Service in September of 1996. CAPT Diggins became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) in 1997.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION

CAPT Diggins' current position as Assistant Chief Pharmacist (Inpatient) includes being a Clinical Pharmacist for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), as well as being the Residency Program Director at the Indian Health Service Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC). He directs and coordinates clinical and distributive pharmacy services at this 110-bed facility. His duties as a clinical pharmacist for the ICU include providing pharmacotherapy services (drug therapy recommendations and monitoring) and distributive pharmacy services for ICU patients. Additionally, he develops and implements medication use policies. As the Residency Program Director, CAPT Diggins developed and coordinated a new ASHP accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency Program at PIMC.

An important component of his job includes optimizing use of the pharmacy budget by identifying opportunities to reduce costs while maintaining or improving drug therapy. Also, as an active member of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, CAPT Diggins has prepared monographs and presentations for new products under consideration for formulary addition, reviewed alcohol withdrawal treatments, and developed and implemented an aminoglycoside administration protocol.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION

CAPT Diggins has developed his skills by maintaining a long-term commitment to further his education, expand his credentials, and continue to explore his professional interests. He has obtained certification and training in many areas, specifically, JCAHO Hospital Standards, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructor Training, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider Certification, Pyxis Manager Training, and BCPS. His interest in teaching began early in his pharmacy career. During his residency, he taught

Pharm.D. and B.S. students and presently holds a Clinical Assistant Professorship at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy. He is also a Clinical instructor for pharmacy clerkship students in the areas of Adult Acute Care and Internal Medicine and is an Adjunct Clinical Instructor of Pharmacy Practice.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

Several factors influenced CAPT Diggins' decision to join the Public Health Service. His father, having served in the Air Force, held a high regard for the Uniformed Services and appreciated the professional and personal benefits one could reap while providing a service to his fellow citizens. CAPT Diggins was exposed to the Public Health Service through a fellow classmate who participated in a Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP). He decided to apply and was accepted as a summer COSTEP at FDA.

PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

CAPT Diggins' professional experience with the US Public Health Service began as a COSTEP from June 1984 to September 1984 with the Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drugs and Biologics Freedom of Information Branch in Rockville, Maryland. After graduating from pharmacy school, he was assigned to the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility in Arizona from August 1985 to July 1988. From 1988 to 1993 he operated as a senior pharmacist with the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. His current assignment at PIMC started in September 1996 where he began as a senior level pharmacist, and has been promoted through the ranks to Residency Program Director, Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist, and Assistant Chief Pharmacist of Inpatient Pharmacy Services.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

CAPT Diggins' most rewarding USPHS professional experience has been the ongoing teaching opportunities throughout his career. The Indian Health Service is very active in offering rotations for students, and currently maintains about a dozen residency programs. He has been a preceptor for students from over twenty different colleges of pharmacy. Many of these people have gone on to careers with the PHS, and it is professionally gratifying for him to know he played an important role in their lives.

Throughout CAPT Diggins' career with the PHS, he has had numerous opportunities to travel and live in a variety of geographic locations, as well as to provide care to a unique population in a health care setting that has enabled him to grow professionally. CAPT Diggins explained that he has met many great people during his time with the PHS, many of who became lifelong friends.

By: LCDR Elizabeth Girard